REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the present application, and are rejected. Claim 3 is herein amended. No new matter has been presented.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner asserts that the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 21, 2008 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance of each patent listed that is not in the English language. The Korean office action dated December 3, 2007 is not accompanied by any English translation. Therefore the information referred to therein has not been considered and has been lined through.

Applicants submit that each reference cited in the foreign office action has itself been at least partially translated and considered by the Examiner, and the abstracts or partial translations that were considered are sufficient to meet Applicants' duty of disclosure for each reference.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to for containing legal phraseology.

Applicants herein replace the word "comprise" with the word "include" in the abstract.

Claim Objection

Claim 3 is objected to because claim 3 includes the limitation, "wherein the birefringent material shows liquid crystalline...."

Applicants submit that the birefringent material ***is*** a liquid crystalline, and include such changes with the present amendment.

Rejections for Double Patenting

Claims 1-17 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 19-35 of copending Application No. 11/661362.

Applicants file concurrently herewith an express abandonment of Application No. 11/661,362. Therefore, Applicants need take no action with respect to this rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-9 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Kamijo et al. (US 7,289,266 B1).

Regarding claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Kamijo et al. discloses a polarizing plate (column 11, lines 54-56) comprising: a polarizer (Fig. 1) and a protective film laminated on one or both sides of the polarizer with an adhesive layer (column 12, line 59-column 13, line 3), wherein the polarizer comprises a monolayer film (Fig. 1) having a structure having a minute domain (3) dispersed in a matrix formed of an optically-transparent water-soluble resin (1) including an iodine based light absorbing material (2), and the adhesive layer is made of an

adhesive that contains a resin curable with an active energy beam or an active material (column 13, line 2).

Regarding claims 2 and 3, the Examiner asserts that Kamijo et al. further discloses wherein the minute domain of the polarizer is formed of an oriented birefringent material and wherein the birefringent material shows liquid crystalline at least in orientation processing step (column 6, lines 17-23).

Regarding claim 4, the Examiner asserts that Kamijo et al. further discloses wherein the minute domain of the polarizer has 0.02 or more of birefringence (column 2, lines 57-58).

Regarding claim 5, the Examiner asserts that Kamijo et al. further discloses wherein in a refractive index difference between the birefringent material forming the minute domain and the optically-transparent water-soluble resin of the polarizer in each optical axis direction, a refractive index difference (On^g) in direction of axis showing a maximum is 0.03 or more, and a refractive index difference (An^2) between the An' direction and a direction of axes of two directions perpendicular to the On' direction is 50% or less of the On' (column 2, lines 63-column 4, line 3).

Regarding claim 6, the Examiner asserts that Kamijo et al. further discloses wherein an absorption axis of the iodine based light absorbing material of the polarizer is oriented in the An' direction (column 3, lines 24-26).

Regarding claim 7, the Examiner asserts that Kamijo et al. further discloses wherein the film used as the polarizer is manufactured by stretching (column 3, lines 66-67).

Regarding claim 8, the Examiner asserts that Kamijo et al. further discloses wherein the minute domain of the polarizer has a length of 0.05 to 500 gm in the An^2 direction (column 4, lines 6-7).

Regarding claim 9, the Examiner asserts that Kamijo et al. further discloses wherein an iodine based light absorbing material of the polarizer has an absorbing band at least in a band of 400 to 700 nm wavelength range (column 4, lines 16-18).

Regarding claim 14, the Examiner asserts that Kamijo et al. further discloses wherein a transmittance to a linearly polarized light in a transmission direction is 80% or more, a haze value is 5% or less, and a haze value to a linearly polarized light in an absorption direction is 30% or more (column 4, lines 3467).

Regarding claim 15-17, the Examiner asserts that Kamijo et al. further discloses wherein the polarizer as set forth above is an optical film and image display (column 13, lines 60-65).

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections and respectfully submit that the cited reference fails to teach all of the claimed limitations of the present invention.

The present invention of claim 1 is a polarizing plate comprising a polarizer and a protective film laminated on one or both sides of the polarizer with an adhesive layer, wherein the polarizer comprises a monolayer film having a structure having a minute domain dispersed in a matrix formed of an optically-transparent water-soluble resin including an iodine based light absorbing material, and the adhesive layer is made of an adhesive that contains a resin curable with an active energy beam or an active material.

Applicants note the Examiner's assertion that the phrase, "the adhesive layer is made of an adhesive that contains a resin curable with an active energy beam or an active material" disclosed by the description in column 13, line 2 of Kamijo et al. can be the adhesive of the present invention.

However, Applicants note that the description in column 13, line 2 of Kamijo cited by the Examiner has been taken out of context, and is part of the following complete description:

> "A hard coat layer maybe prepared, or antireflection processing, processing aiming at sticking prevention, diffusion or anti glare may be performed onto the face on which the polarizer of the above described protective film has not been adhered.
>
> A hard coat processing is applied for the purpose of protecting the surface of the polarizing plate from damage, and this hard coat film may be formed by a method in which, for example, a curable coated film with excellent hardness, slide property etc. is added on the surface of the protective film using suitable ultraviolet curable type resins, such as acrylic type and silicone type resins."

Applicants note that this description relates to the surface of the protective film of the polarizing plate, which is the face on which the polarizer is not adhered.

On the other hand, the adhesive described in claim 1 of the present invention is used for laminating a polarizer and a protective film. From the above, please make argument that Kamijo does not describe an adhesive pointed out by the examiner.

Applicants note that a description corresponding to the above description in Kamijo is also found in the present application corresponding PCT application, paragraphs [0109] and [0110]. Furthermore, an adhesive intended to laminate the polarizer and the protective film is described in column 13, lines 40 to 47 of Kamijo, but the portion does not disclose the adhesive of the present invention.

Therefore, the adhesive of Kamijo et al. can not be the same as the adhesive of the presently claimed invention.

With respect to claims 2-9 and 14-17, because these claims depend from and necessarily include the limitations of claim 1, and because claim 1 has been patentably distinguished above, claims 2-9 and 14-17 would necessarily be distinguished as well.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Kamijo et al.

Regarding claims 12 and 13, the Examiner asserts that Kamijo et al. discloses wherein the protective film has a thickness direction retardation Rth = {(nx + ny) / 2 - nz} x d is 30 nm or less, where a direction of a transparent protective film in which an in-plane refractive index within the film surface concerned gives a maximum is defined as X-axis, a direction perpendicular to X-axis is defined as Y-axis, a thickness direction of the film is defined as Z-axis, refractive indices in axial direction are defined as nx, ny, and nz, respectively, and a thickness of the film is defined as d (nm) (column 12, lines 44-58) and wherein the protective film comprises at least one selected from a resin composition containing a thermoplastic resin (A) having a substituted and/or non-

substituted imide group in a side chain and a thermoplastic resin (B) having substituted and/or non-substituted phenyl group and nitrile group in a side chain (column 12, lines 20-31).

The Examiner asserts that Kamijo et al. discloses the claimed invention except for explicitly stating wherein the protective film has an in-plane retardation Re = (nx - ny) x d = 20 nm or less. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made (nx - ny) x d = 20 nm or less, because doing so would be merely discovering an optimum value or working range, which involves only routine skill in the art.

Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Kamijo et al. in view of Nakahara et al. (JP 2002-148436).

The Examiner asserts that Kamijo et al. discloses the claimed invention except for wherein the adhesive is an active energy beam-curable solventless adhesive or a moisture-curable one-component adhesive and wherein the protective film has a bonded surface that has been subjected to at least one treatment selected from corona treatment, plasma treatment, flame treatment, primer coating treatment, and saponification treatment. The Examiner asserts that Nakahara et al. teaches a moisture-curable one-component adhesive to provide adhesion between a polarizer and a the protective film which has a bonded surface that has been subjected to at least one treatment selected from corona treatment, plasma treatment, flame treatment, primer coating treatment (abstract). The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the adhesive of Kamijo et al. with that of Nakahara et al. to provide excellent adhesion and resistance to moist heat.

Applicants submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) do not need to be substantively addressed. U.S. Patent No. 6,194,228 to Kamijo et al. is commonly assigned with the present application. Kamijo et al. was filed on October 9, 2003 and subsequently issued on October 30, 2007. The present application has an effective U.S. filing date of March 17, 2005. Therefore, Kamijo et al. is properly a reference only under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). According to 35 U.S.C. §103(c),

> "Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person."

Because the present application and the cited reference were assigned to the same entity at the time the present invention was made, 35 U.S.C. §103(c) indicates that Kamijo et al. is removed as a reference in the above rejection. Upon the removal of this reference, Applicants disagree with the rejection because not all of the claimed elements are taught or suggested by the remaining reference.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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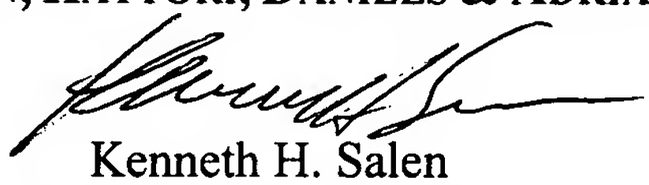

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